

Henry D. Middleton House
CH-615
Waldorf vic.
Private

Circa 1896

Including a Victorian farmhouse surrounded by an outstanding group of outbuildings, the Henry D. Middleton House and farm embodies the changing landscape of southern Maryland tobacco farms from the late nineteenth to late twentieth century. Still operating as a working farm and consisting of 192.5 of the original 194.5 acres, the farmstead remains a rare surviving example of what was once a typical feature of the Charles County landscape.

Although quite modest, this dwelling is an example of a slightly above average domicile in Charles County at the turn of the century. Three bays in length and including a porch and center gable, the farmhouse is distinguished by its atypical projecting center bay on the facade. Although several additions are found on the side and rear elevations, the interior and exterior retain much of its original materials and character. Surviving outbuildings include a milkhouse, shed, two corncribs and several tobacco barns. Several Middleton family homes survive in the immediate vicinity, most notably the very similar Alexius L. Middleton (CH-628).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-615

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Henry D. Middleton House (preferred)
other Middleton Farm

2. Location

street and number 4385 Renner Road not for publication
city, town Waldorf x vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joyce A. Middleton, et al.
street and number 4385 Renner Road telephone 301-638-0330
city, town Waldorf state MD zip code 20602-3114

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 24-6-23
city, town Laplata liber 2103 folio 323

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	12	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	13	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary		Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			0	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-615

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Henry D. Middleton House is located near Waldorf on the west side of Renner Road. Built circa 1896 and surrounded by a complete farmstead, the dwelling is set on a small rise amidst open fields. A loop driveway circles the dwelling and branches off to provide access to the seven barns and six outbuildings associated with the property.

The dwelling is a two and one half story, three bay frame structure that is somewhat typical of many late Victorian houses in Charles County. In plan, the house follows a front facing variation of the T-plan, with a shallow cross gable projecting from the façade and a single pile addition extending from the rear of the dwelling. With the exception of vinyl siding, the dwelling retains a great deal of its original character and materials including original windows and surrounds as well as much of its original interior woodwork and hardware.

The foundation consists of poured concrete and supports a wooden frame currently clad with vinyl siding. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and features cornice returns. The roof is pierced with four interior and one later exterior brick chimney. The four interior chimneys include corbeled caps. Later additions to the essential T-plan include an early two-story wing to the northeast corner of the dwelling, a 1 1/2 story addition to the rear or eastern elevation, and a one story shed addition on the southeast elevation.

The façade faces east and is distinguished by a centered cross-gable wall projecting slightly from the main body. Included in this gable wall is a centered first floor single paneled door with a 4-light transom and sidelights. On the second story is a single, narrow double-hung wooden sash window with 2/2 lights. The attic story features the primary decorative detailing present on the dwelling, a small fanlight centered between the gable ridge and the returning eaves. This lunette is wood with three lights.

Windows on the façade as well as the northern and southern gable ends are vertically symmetrical and of the same composition as the double-hung sash windows described above. Surrounds consist of wide square-edged wooden molding.

The two-story wing at the northeastern corner of the dwelling is an early addition, possibly original, and appears in an early twentieth century photograph of the home. The wing features similar window composition, surrounds and cornice returns as found on the main body. Noticeably altered since the early photograph is the first floor east elevation window configuration. Currently windows are paired, yet the circa 1920 photograph documents a single window above a secondary exterior doorway.

The 1 1/2 story addition to the rear includes windows that are slightly shorter and wider than those found in the main body of the T-plan dwelling. A paired window is also found on the first floor of this western elevation. The roofline which runs east-west is steeply sloping on the northern extension.

The one story hipped addition on the southwestern elevation includes two paired double-hung windows to the south as well as a secondary doorway to the west.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-615

Name Henry D. Middleton House (preferred
Continuation Sheet

Number ____7__ Page 1

INTERIOR

The interior includes two original Victorian mantels and the original stair with turned balusters and a bulbous newel.

OUTBUILDINGS

The Middleton Farm includes seven barns and six outbuildings that range in date from the late nineteenth to late twentieth centuries. Those closest in proximity to the dwelling include the two corn cribs, two sheds and a milkhouse.

The milkhouse probably dates from the first half of the twentieth century. This structure is located near the northeast corner of the dwelling and is composed of a frame construction sheathed with weatherboard resting on a poured concrete foundation. A metal seam roof ends at the roofline with boxed eaves. The building also features a vertical board door.

Two corncribs are situated behind the main dwelling. The smaller of the two, dating from the late 19th early 20th century, is currently used as a shed. It is relatively square in dimensions with a concrete block foundation, metal seam roof and vertical board cladding. Massive timbers are used in the framing.

The larger corn crib, circa 1950, is a rectangular structure with a poured concrete pier foundation, a metal seam roof and two dormers with swinging doors. These dormers are flush with the eave wall. Exterior walls consist of narrow vertical slats evenly spaced throughout.

A two bay shed located to the northwest of the dwelling probably dates from the second half of the twentieth century. The walls are clad in aluminum siding and the roof is covered with rolled asphalt sheathing. The building includes a concrete block chimney and possibly serves partly as a workshop.

To the southwest of the dwelling is another shed, which was probably constructed during the first half of the twentieth century. This frame building is three bays in length and sheathed with vertical boards. The structure rests on a concrete block foundation. The sloping shed roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

BARNs

At a greater distance from the house are several barns. Six of the seven are tobacco barns. The other is of unknown use but may have also been used for curing tobacco.

At the front of the house is a large tobacco barn dating from the first half of the twentieth century. This structure rests on a concrete pier foundation and is sheathed with vertical board cladding. Tobacco curing is facilitated by many symmetrically placed doors. Three openings with hinged doors appear on the long eave wall, while two are present on the gable wall.

A concrete block and frame shed/garage is located nearby and may have been used as a tobacco stripping shed. A brick chimney flue, commonly found on stripping sheds and used to maintain proper temperature and humidity, pierces the metal seam roof.

To the south of the dwelling are two other barns. The first is a large, circa 1950

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-615

Name Henry D. Middleton House (preferred
Continuation Sheet

Number ____7__ Page 2

front gable structure with a metal roof and one story shed addition to the southern elevation. The frame construction is sheathed with vertical boards and supported by a poured concrete foundation.

Nearby is another large barn covered with a half-gambrel, half-gable roof. The roof material is of metal seam and the frame is sheathed with vertical boards. This structure probably dates to the first half of the twentieth century.

Four additional tobacco barns dating from the last quarter of the twentieth century are located in the adjacent fields. Two exhibit gable roof plans and metal seam roof sheathing. The frame is clad in vertical boards. Two large double swinging doors appear on the eave wall and two addition doors appear under the gable.

The other two barns appear to be of the most recent construction. The first features vertical board siding, hinged ventilators, a gable roof and a shed addition. The other has a half-gable, half-gambrel roof with a shed addition. This is also clad with vertical boards and hinged ventilators. Both barns have metal seam roofs.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-615

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
Specific dates	1896-1945	Architect	Unknown		
Construction dates	Circa 1896	Builder	Unknown		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Including a Victorian farmhouse surrounded by an outstanding group of outbuildings, the Henry D. Middleton House and farm embodies the changing landscape of southern Maryland tobacco farms from the late nineteenth to late twentieth century. Consisting of 192.5 of the original 194.5 acres, the farmstead remains a rare surviving example of what was once a typical feature of the Charles County landscape.

Tobacco has been cultivated for profit in Charles County continuously since the seventeenth century. At the turn of the twentieth century it remained the most important cash crop with county-wide production steady increasing from 1890-1930.

In 1900, almost half of the farms in Charles County consisted of 100-500 acres. This was a high water mark in both the total number of farms and the total number of large farms from the period between 1870-1930. While decreasing in number as the century wore on, large farms continued to occupy between one half and one third of all farms in the county well into the twentieth century.

In 1896 Henry Dyer Middleton purchased 194.5 acres from the estate of Aquilla W. Marlow known as "Hobson's Choice" and "Hardy's Hard Bargain". Shortly after his purchase Middleton built the house and several outbuildings. For the last one hundred years the farm has remained in the Middleton family.

Henry Dyer Middleton was the seventh child of Jordan and Molly Dyer Middleton. Like his brother Alexis L. Middleton who lived on an adjacent farm (CH-628), he worked for a time at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. During his early years he traveled to the western plains arriving as far as South Dakota before returning home. At the age of forty he married Bertha Evelyn Cooke in 1908 and around this time constructed the dwelling house and several of the outbuildings that stand on the property today.

The evolution of tobacco cultivation is well represented at this site which consists of seven tobacco barns ranging from the late nineteenth to late twentieth centuries. All exhibit the regional preference for vertical board siding. Changes in curing practices are also reflected by the presence of both hinged ventilators on the contemporary barns and a large number of double swinging doors on the earlier structures.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-615

Name Henry D. Middleton House (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Additionally the dwelling, which retains much of its original character and materials is an excellent example of the type of late nineteenth and early twentieth century domestic architecture chosen by farm families in the region. Moreover, it includes several good examples of domestic outbuildings typically associated with rural properties includes a milkhouse, workshop and shed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-615

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 192.5
Acreage of historical setting 10
Quadrangle name LaPlata Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 4370 Renner Road is and has historically been associated with Charles County Property Map 24, Grid 6, Parcel 23.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Site Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	9/1/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20246

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-615

Section 8 Page 1

Henry D. Middleton House
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of Title:

November 14, 1896

Adrian Posey, surviving trustee to Henry D. Middleton. Sale of real estate of the late Aquilla W. Marlow "improvements thereupon". Commonly called and known as a part of "Hobson's Choice" and "Hardy's Hard Bargain" **194.5 a.** \$700.

J.S.T. No.8 Folio 511

Parcel 1

October 11, 1945

Bertha E. Middleton, widow, Mary Ruth Simmons and David M. Simmons, her husband, James Rudolph Middleton and Hazel L. Middleton his wife, Martha B. Middleton, unmarried, T. Blair Middleton and M. Virginia his wife, Carlisle A. Middleton and Mary B. Middleton his wife, Helena M. Dairy and W.A. Dairy her husband, Henry D. Middleton, Jr., and Margaret E. his wife, Leo F. Middleton and Emma A. his wife. Joseph Irving Middleton and Carolyn Hanson Middleton his wife to Joseph Irvin Middleton and Carolyn Hanson. **194.5 a.**

"Hobson's Choice" "Hardy's Hard Bargain".

Liber 87 Folio 454

Parcel 2

April 22, 1957

Bertha E. Middleton, widow, Mary Ruth Simmons and David M. Simmons, her husband, James Rudolph Middleton and Hazel L. Middleton his wife, Martha B. Middleton, unmarried, T. Blair Middleton and M. Virginia his wife, Carlisle A. Middleton and Mary B. Middleton his wife, Helena M. Dairs and W.A. Dairs her husband, Henry D. Middleton, Jr., and Margaret E. his wife, Leo F. Middleton and Emma A. his wife. Joseph Irving Middleton and Carolyn Hanson Middleton his wife to Joseph Irvin Middleton and Carolyn Hanson.

"Homelot"

Liber 129 Folio 465

Parcel 1&2

June 29, 1995

Mary C. Pruett, for Carolyn H. Middleton, to Mary C. Pruett, Joyce Ann Middleton, Joseph T. Middleton, Jr., John C. Middleton, Sr. Richard A. Middleton.

Parcel 1: "Hobson's Choice" and "Hardy's Hard Bargain" 194.5a.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-615

Section 8 Page 2

Henry D. Middleton House
name of property
Charles County
county and state

Parcel 2: "home lot"
Liber 2103 Folio 323

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-615

Section 9 Page 1

Henry D. Middleton House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Lloyd, David B. The Middletons and Kindred Families of Southern Maryland.
Self Published. Bethesda, MD. 1975.

Wasch, Diane Shaw, The Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco in Maryland.
Prepared for the Office of Research, Survey and Registration, MHT, 1990.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/12/99

North arrow:



Name: Middleton House

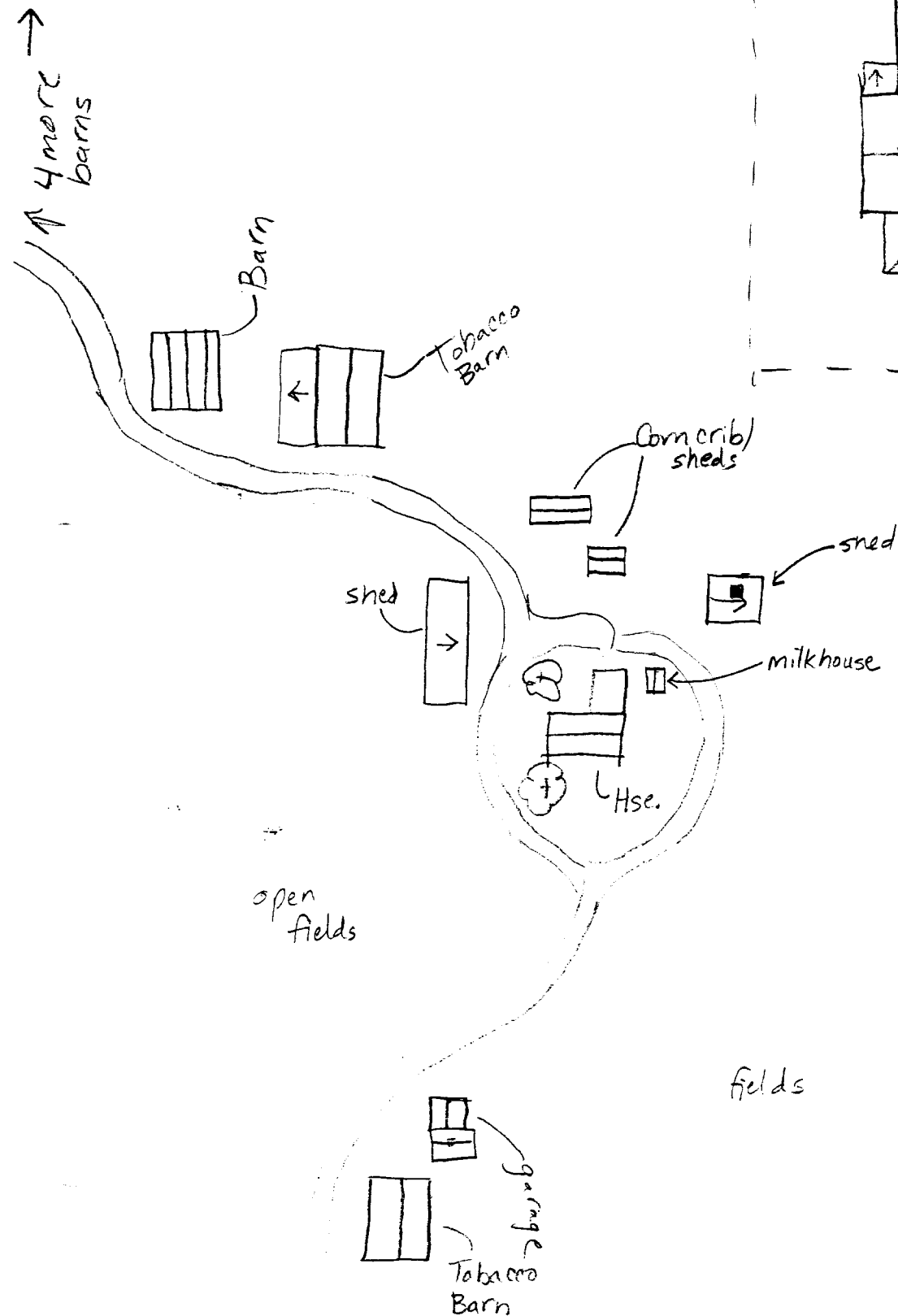
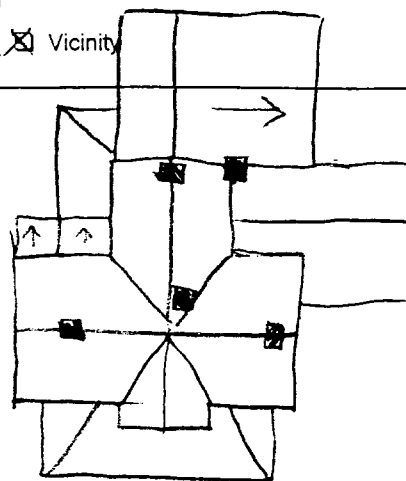
Address: 4370 Renner Rd.

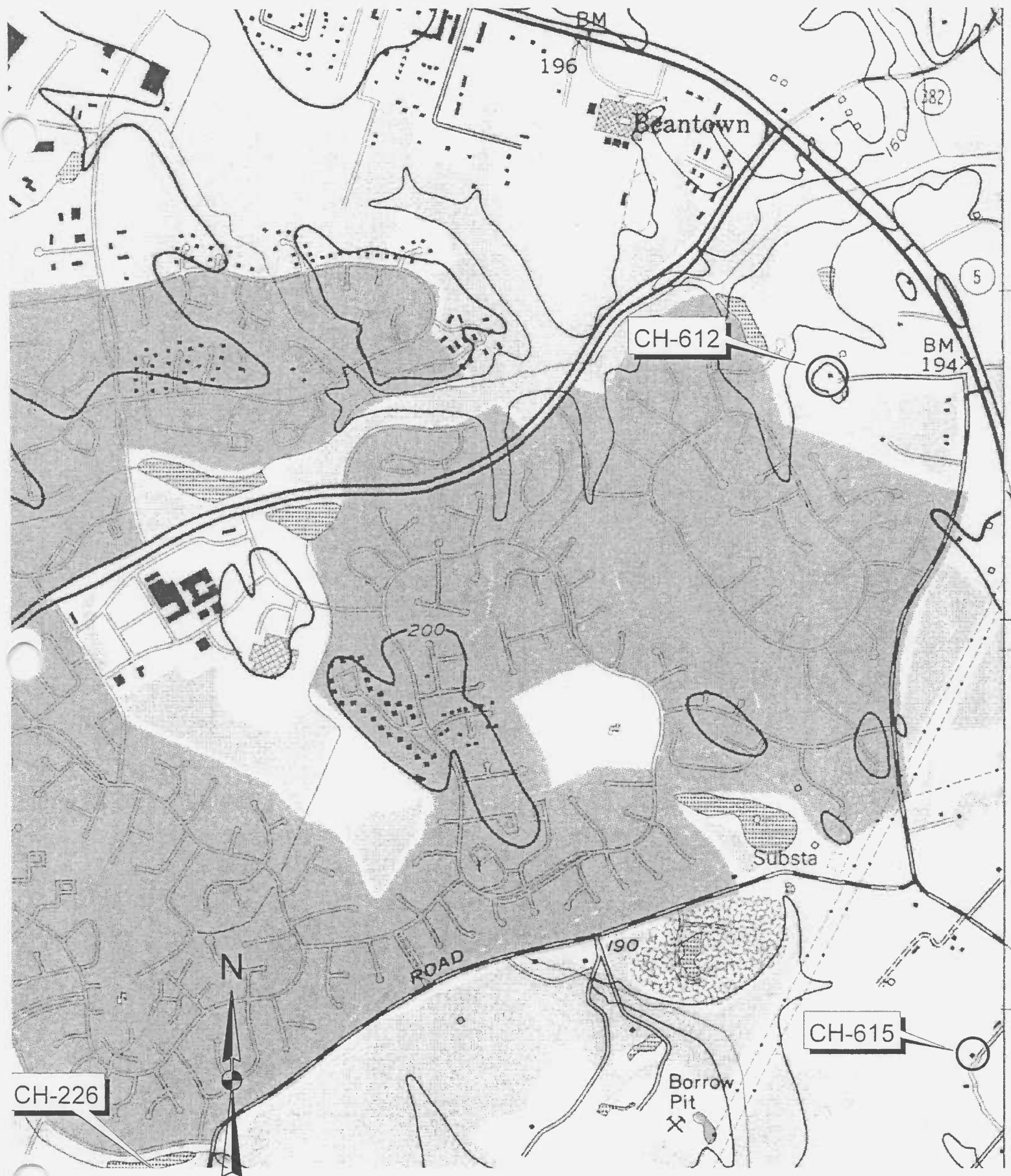
CH - 615

Charles County, Maryland

Waldorf

☒ Vicinity





CH-226

Henry D. Middleton House
CH-615
Charles County, MD
LaPlata, MD Quad



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

1 OF 16



CH- 615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

2 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K G SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

4 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K.G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO
HISTORIC PHOTO
5 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K.G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

MAIN STAIR HALL W/ ENTRANCE

6 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. G. SMITH

MARYLAND SITPO

MILKHOUSE, LOOKING NE

7 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MO

11/99

K.G. SMITH

MARYLAND SITPO

SIED / GARAGE - LOOKING NW

8 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K.G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

CORNCRIBS. LOOKING NW

9 of 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K G. SMITH

MARYLAND SITPU
SHED, LOOKING NE

10 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D MIDDLETON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

TOBACCO BARN. LOOKING SW

11 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K G. SMITH

MARYLAND SITPO

TOBACCO BARN, LOOKING SW

12 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. E. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, LOOKING NE

13 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K. G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

GARAGE-LOOKING NORTH

14 OF 16



CH-615

HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/99

K.G. SMITH

MARYLAND SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, SOUTH

15 OF 16



CH-615
HENRY D. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
11/99

K.G. SMITH

MARYLAND SITPO

DISTANT VIEW OF TOBACCO BARNs. WEST
16 OF 16